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POLAND: Additional Signs of Worker Dissatisfaction

Expressions of worker discontent continue while the Army is taking steps to entrench its role in the party. The government, meanwhile, has not ruled out compulsory deliveries from farmers. Moscow reportedly has differences with Warsaw on Soviet aid and other issues.

A government spokesman admitted yesterday that workers at the Ursus works near Warsaw have engaged in "discussions" to express dissatisfaction with the recent food price increases, but denied that any strikes had taken place. He also confirmed the magnitude of the incident in Gdansk, saying police had used tear gas and water hoses to disperse a crowd of 3,000.

The military government, meanwhile, reportedly decided in early January to assign selected reserve officers to fill the posts of party secretaries in various localities. Those chosen would serve as civilians in the party for at least 18 months, largely in urban areas. In a similar vein, a general has been appointed governor of Gdansk Province.

Comment: The government's tendency to play down the incidents of worker unrest suggests that the situation in Ursus may be more serious than it admits.

The use of officers, though technically civilians, would presumably remain under military discipline, thus maintaining the military's leading role behind a party facade. Such plans by the military indicate that it does not believe the party will soon be capable of resuming control of affairs by itself, especially in urban trouble spots such as Gdansk.

Possible Forced Deliveries of Grain

Warsaw on Monday raised grain procurement prices by 26 percent to encourage sales from private farmers, but a government spokesman yesterday refused to rule out possible compulsory deliveries if farmers fail to sell adequate amounts to the state.

Comment: The government apparently still is considering compulsory deliveries and may hope that such a

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system--abolished 10 years ago--will not meet with significant opposition from private farmers. It probably also calculates the move would be welcomed by urban workers who only suffer when farmers withhold food.

The regime already may have collected data to provide the basis for a system of compulsory deliveries. Military teams that were sent to the countryside in November surveyed the assets of private farms. Although forced deliveries would increase supplies in the short run, they would create problems in the longer term because many farmers probably would cut back on crop and livestock production.

Differences Between Warsaw and Moscow

[redacted] disagreement between Premier Jaruzelski and Moscow has arisen over Soviet aid to Poland, the timing of return to civilian government and party rule, and the possibility of government negotiations with Solidarity. The source believes that despite these differences the USSR is unlikely to seek the removal of Jaruzelski or a takeover of power by hardliners.

Comment: The reported differences between Jaruzelski and the Soviets are in line with indications that Moscow had misgivings over some passages in Jaruzelski's speech last week to the parliament. Although his current handling of the situation appears to have Soviet approval, differences could become more pronounced if the military regime fails to show progress in stemming acts of defiance, restoring party cohesion, and improving the economy.

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